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Edwin **KENNY**

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PRIORITY CLAIM

Sir:

Claim is hereby made on behalf of the above-noted Applicant for priority under the International Convention, based upon the corresponding Canadian Patent Office Application No. 2,341,787 of March 22, 2001

A certified copy is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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the Patent Office.

Specification and Drawings, as originally filed, with Application for Patent Serial No:
2,341,787, on March 22, 2001, by EDWIN KENNY, for "Knife Blade Guard".

S. Lachance
Agent certificateur/Certifying Officer

February 12, 2002

Date

Canada

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KNIFE BLADE GUARD

ABSTRACT

The invention provides a blade guard comprising an elongated member of resilient material that has a longitudinal axis. The member has a portion of an outer surface extending parallel to the longitudinal axis and spaced from the axis. An elongated slit defined in the member includes slit walls defined by the resilient material. The slit extends in a plane extending from the portion of the outer surface inwardly of the member and parallel to the longitudinal axis. The member is adapted to engage the blade of a knife within the slit of the member and the resilience of the material of the slit walls is sufficient for the member to be held on the blade so as to cover a portion of a cutting edge of the blade.

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KNIFE BLADE GUARD

The present invention relates to knife blade guards and more particularly to a flexible knife blade guard capable of receiving and holding knife blades of varying shapes and sizes.

Blade guards are known that protect the edges of sharp instruments such as knives and chain saws. These guards may protect either the whole instrument, for example a sheath-like guard, or a sharp edge of the instrument. Such blade guards are typically shaped to conform to the contours of the particular instrument that they cover and are therefore not
10 adaptable for use with other instruments that do not have the same shape.

There are numerous devices in the prior art suggesting knife guards for protecting the edge of a knife blade. One such device is shown in United States Patent No. 2,517,649 to Frechtmann, issued August 8, 1950. Frechtmann teaches a blade guard for protecting the edges of cutting devices. The blade guard comprises a body that fits onto the edge of the blade and a rigid element for maintaining the body in a fixed position around the blade edge. Additional end-clips may be used to secure the guard in position. In order to remove the blade from the guard the clips and the non-resilient element must be removed.

20 None of the prior art devices are resiliently adaptable for use with a variety of blades of different sizes.

It is therefore desirable to provide a blade guard that can be adapted to be used with several different sharp instruments or knife blades.

It is a further aim to provide a blade guard that can be adapted to conform to the shape of and to hold any knife blade or sharp edge that it is required to protect.

In one of its aspects, the present invention comprises a blade guard comprising an elongated member of resilient material having a
30 longitudinal axis. The member has a portion of an outer surface extending

- 2 -

parallel to the longitudinal axis and spaced therefrom. An elongated slit defined in the member includes slit walls defined by the resilient material. The slit extends in a plane that extends from the portion of the outer surface inwardly of the member and parallel to the longitudinal axis. The member is adapted to engage the blade of a knife within the slit of the member and the resilience of the material of the slit walls is sufficient for the member to be held on the blade so as to cover a portion of a cutting edge of the blade.

The invention will be better understood with reference to the attached detailed description and to the following Figures, wherein:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of a knife blade guard according to the present invention;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of the knife blade guard of Fig. 1 with a knife blade edge located within the slit shown in dotted outline; and

Figure 3 is a fragmentary axial cross-section taken through the knife guard showing the blade in position within the guard.

Reference is made to Figures 1 and 2 to describe a preferred embodiment of a blade guard 10. The invention will be described with reference to its use with a knife 24 which has a blade 26 with a cutting edge 28.

The guard 10 has an elongated member 12 with a longitudinal axis 14 and a skirt portion 16 of an outer surface 18 extending parallel to and spaced from the longitudinal axis 14. A slit 20 is defined in the member 12 and includes slit walls 22 defined by the material of the member 12. The slit 20 extends in a plane extending parallel to the skirt portion 16 and along the longitudinal axis 14. The member 12 is adapted to engage the blade 26 of the knife 24 within the slit 20 and the resilience of the material of the slit walls 22 is sufficient for the member 12 to be held on the blade 26 so as to cover a portion of the cutting edge 28 of the blade 26.

- 3 -

The member 12 is flexible and is of a length capable of receiving and holding the blade 26. The member 12 is made from resilient material that has a cork-like consistency. The material is preferably a molded plastic material with cork-like properties, for example low density polyethylene. The member 12 is adapted to engage the blade 26 of the knife 24 by receiving the blade 26 within the slit 20 and the resilient material of the slit walls holding the blade 26 therein.

The slit 18 has an open end 30 and a closed end 32, located opposite the open end 30. When the knife 24 is held in the guard 10, it is positioned so that the tip of the knife blade 26 is located at the end 32 under a hook 34. As a result, the blade 26 is held in a position in which the member 12 can be adapted to curve around the blade 26, securing the cutting edge 28 within the slit walls 22.

In the embodiment shown, the guard 10 is made of a molded plastic material. In order to provide the proper flexibility and stability, the particular cross-sectioned shapes as shown in Figs. 1 and 2 have been chosen. However any other shape, including a full body, would be suitable.

In use, the end of the blade 26 is positioned in the closed end 32 of the slit 20 to be received under the hook 34. Once the end of the blade 26 is engaged under the hook 34, the blade 26 can be fully received in the slit 20. The member 12 is flexible and bends to conform to the shape of the blade 26 in order that the slit walls 22 abut the cutting edge 28 and the guard 10 covers at least a portion of the blade 26. Once the cutting edge 28 is received within the slit 20, the resiliency of the material of the slit walls 22 retains the cutting edge 28 therein until the blade 26 is extracted from the guard 10. The resiliency of the material of the guard 10 ensures that the cutting edge 28 is held within the slit walls 22 and that the guard 10 does not fall off the blade 26.

When the knife 24 is required for use the guard 10 can be removed by peeling the member 12 away from the blade 26. Initially the open end 30 is removed from the blade 26 and then the remainder of the

- 4 -

member 12 is peeled away towards the closed end 32. When the end of the blade 26 is reached it can be extracted from the hook-shaped cavity and then the knife 24 is released from the guard 10.

While the embodiment discussed herein is directed to a particular implementation of the invention, it will be apparent that variations of this embodiment are within the scope of the invention. For example, the material of the member can be any material that has resilient cork-like properties and is capable of receiving and retaining a knife blade and flexibly conforming to the shape of the blade. The member can be manufactured to be any desired length and width. The slit can be adapted to extend a greater distance inwardly of the member in order to accommodate larger knife blades.

CLAIMS

1. A blade guard comprising an elongated member of resilient material having a longitudinal axis, the member having a portion of an outer surface extending parallel to the longitudinal axis and spaced therefrom, an elongated slit defined in the member including slit walls defined by the resilient material, the slit extending in a plane extending from the portion of the outer surface inwardly of the member and parallel to the longitudinal axis, whereby the member is adapted to engage the blade of a knife within the slit of the member and the resilience of the material of the slit walls is sufficient for the member to be held on the blade so as to cover a portion of a cutting edge of the blade.
2. A blade guard according to claim 1 wherein the slit has an open end and a closed end located opposite the open end.
3. A blade guard according to claim 2 wherein the slit has a cavity located at the closed end.
4. A blade guard according to claim 3 wherein the cavity is hook-shaped.
5. A blade guard according to claim 1 wherein the resilient material is cork-like.
6. A blade guard according to claim 1 wherein the resilient material is cork.
7. A blade guard according to claim 1 wherein the resilient material is low-density polyethylene.
8. A blade guard according to claim 1 wherein the elongated member is flexible.

